

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: TASS LINKS U.S. NEWSMEN TO GAMSAKHURDIA

1. TASS ENGLISH WIRE MAY 18 CARRIED STORY ON GAMSAKHURDIA/
KOSTAVA TRIAL WHICH CENTERS ON FORMER'S CONTACT WITH TWO
U.S. CORRESPONDENTS.
2. SHORT (FOUR PARAGRAPH) TASS TREATMENT OF LATEST DEVELOP-
MENTS IN TBILISI TRIAL OF DISSIDENTS ZVIAD GAMSAKHURDIA AND
MERAB KOSTAVA PLAYS UP GAMSAKHURDIA'S ALLEGED RELATION OF
HIS CONTACTS, IN 1976, WITH JOURNALISTS DAVID SHIPLER
(CURRENTLY BUREAU CHIEF FOR NEW YORK TIMES) AND ALFRED
FRIENDLY, JR., (FORMER NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT WHO DEPARTED
IN AUGUST, 1976).
3. SHIPLER IS MENTIONED ONLY BRIEFLY, BUT FRIENDLY, WHO
WAS SHARPLY ATTACKED IN SOVIET PRESS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER
HIS DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW, COMES IN FOR TOUGHER TREATMENT.
TASS SAYS GAMSAKHURDIA FELT FRIENDLY'S ARTICLE BASED ON
CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM WAS "SLANDERING". "THUS," TASS
INTONES, "THE ROLE OF THE REAL MASTERMINDS AND INSTIGATORS
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OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS ON SOVIET TERRITORY WAS REVEALED IN
COURT."

4. FYI, WE HEAR FROM ONE RESIDENT AMERICAN
CORRESPONDENT THAT ORLOV, DURING HIS SIMULTANEOUS TRIAL IN
MOSCOW, WAS ASKED TO REVEAL NAMES OF NEWSMEN TO WHOM HE
PASSED HIS MATERIALS. ORLOV, WE ARE TOLD, REFUSED, WHERE-

UPON PROSECUTION CITED NAMES OF WREN, KRIMSKY, FRIENDLY
AND OSNOS.

5. COMMENT: ALL JOURNALISTS MENTIONED EXCEPT SHIPLER, ARE
LONG GONE FROM MOSCOW AND HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY ACCUSED OF
"ACTIVITIES FAR FROM JOURNALISM" IN SOVIET PRESS AND ON
TELEVISION. ESCALATION TO TELEVISION AND LATEST SPATE OF
PRINT ATTACKS, WHICH WE REPORTED, CAME EARLIER THIS SPRING.
THE SOVIETS CLEARLY INVESTED CONSIDERABLE EFFORT IN
SMEARING THESE PARTICULAR NEWSMEN, WHICH WE FEEL WAS DONE TO
WARN OFF SOVIETS FROM CONTACT WITH THE WESTERN MEDIA, TO
INSTILL SECOND THOUGHTS IN THE NEWSMEN THEMSELVES, AND TO
PROVIDE AMMUNITION FOR LATER USE IN THE COURTROOM, AS WE
SEE HERE. SHIPLER, WHO HAS BEEN RELATIVELY UNTOUCHED
UNTIL A RECENT TASS RIPOSTE TO AN ARTICLE HE WROTE ON
BURYATIA, MAY NOW BE ENTERING AUGUST COMPANY OF HIS
DEPARTED COLLEAGUES. AS THE ONLY ONE STILL IN MOSCOW, HE
MAY BE MORE VULNERABLE TO FURTHER ATTACKS. MATLOCK

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